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ABSTRACT

This biography presents the life of John Andrew Rice, who founded Black Mountain College (North Carolina) in 1933 to implement his philosophy of education, including the centrality of artistic experience and emotional development to learning in all disciplines and the need for democratic governance shared between faculty and students. Born in South Carolina in 1888 and educated at Tulane, Chicago, and Oxford universities, Rice went through a series of resignations and terminations from faculty positions before starting Black Mountain College, where he was able to test his educational ideas without interference from upper administration. Forced to resign from Black Mountain College in 1940, Rice left education to become a short story writer. The college was closed in 1956 and Rice died in 1968. The book presents Rice as a complex individual, full of ideals and charisma, but he was also arrogant, impulsive, and sometimes unscrupulous. (Contains approximately 500 references.) (DB)

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